

Thursday, December 19, 2013

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An artist's impression of the
Banbury Gateway, to be built
on the site of the existing
Prodrive headquarters

NOW IT'S ALL SYSTEMS GO

By Oliver Evans

A HIGH Court bid to stop an out-of-town retail park in Banbury has failed.

A judge yesterday upheld Cherwell District Council's (CDC) decision to approve the Banbury Gateway in March last year.

The owners of Castle Quay and Banbury Cross Retail Park sought to have the LXB Properties scheme thrown out.

It is earmarked for the current offices of motorsport firm Prodrive at Wildmere Industrial Estate, near junction 11 of the M40.

The firm will move nearby and the retail park would have 11 units, including Marks & Spencer and Next, creating 750 jobs.

Scottish Widows, which owns Castle

**High Court Judge rules in favour of
multi-million pound Banbury Gateway**

Quay, and Aegon UK Property Fund Ltd, which owns Banbury Cross, brought the case.

The court judgement said it was brought over concerns that business would be "sucked away from the town centre".

Scottish Widows is planning a £25m expansion of Castle Quay.

They argued CDC did not consider other sites enough and its conclusion it would not damage town trade was not evidence based.

It also claimed the district council unlawfully failed to get an agreement for M&S to keep open its town centre store for at least

five years after the Gateway opened.

Yet The Hon Mr Justice Burnett said the council left open scope for such an agreement. The firm has pledged to stay in the town centre.

And he said he was "entirely unpersuaded" councillors who took the decision misunderstood the test for considering other locations.

He said: "None of the grounds advanced by the claimants succeeds."

"In those circumstances the claims for judicial review are dismissed."

■ continued on page 2

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**High demand for
debt advice – Page 2**

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as United are
held up by
the wind in
league
encounter –
Page 14**

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ALL WINDOWS MANUFACTURED IN BANBURY

High Court ruling is 'great news for our town'



Prodrive's David Richards

■ continued from page 1

Council lead member for planning Michael Gibbard said: "We are absolutely delighted with the decision as the benefits associated with the Banbury Gateway are far reaching.
"As well as creating hundreds of new employment opportunities for local residents, it will secure hundreds of new and existing jobs at Prodrive, which is using this development to fund its relocation from this site to larger premises within the town."

Prodrive chairman David Richards added: "The decision from the judge could not have been more unequivocal in dismissing all the claimants' grounds."

"It is great news for Prodrive and for the whole town. We can now focus on our relocation and begin investing in what will be our new headquarters for years to come."

Aegon and Scottish Widows – which had yet to comment as we went to press – were ordered to pay the council's legal costs and have 21 days to appeal.



Banbury Gateway will create hundreds of jobs



Part of the 13th Century former road bridge in Bridge Street is being renovated

Medieval link gets restored

■ BANBURY: Two medieval arches are being restored in a project between council, civic and rail leaders.

Part of the 13th Century bridge in Bridge Street – once a road link but now part of the railway – is being restored by Network Rail with support from Banbury Town Council and Banbury Civic Society.

Saplings are being removed from stonework to preserve the bridge.

Town council leader Kieron Mallon said: "The archways are a hidden gem; part of Banbury's medieval history that few people know about."

"The council owns Bridge Street Park and is looking at ways to highlight the archways and make them a feature of the park."

Civic Society chairman Rob Kinchin-Smith said it was "important", adding: "There is very little left from Banbury's medieval period."

Banbury Cake

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The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2010 was 77.4%

Number of clients turned away doubles as household finances hit

Debt advice charity struggles with rush

By Oliver Evans

THE number of people being turned away when seeking debt and benefits advice at a charity has doubled, its boss has revealed.

Banbury Citizens Advice chief executive Barbara Shaw said about 15 people a week were now unable to get help when they dropped into the service.

She said reforms to benefits and the economic crisis was hitting people's ability to manage their finances.

About seven people a week were turned away when it began a Cherwell District Council contract to offer advice in April last year, she said.

Mrs Shaw added: "Demand is very high. We are turning about 15 people a week away. The demand is bigger, particularly with all the welfare reforms and more and more people getting into debt."

"That is partly to do with welfare reforms and reduced income and not being able to manage your money."

"It is particularly to do with increased pressures on people's budgets and rises in energy prices particularly."

Some 6,394 were seen at the charity's Market Place offices in the 12 months from April 2012, the first of the three-year council contract.

Six members of staff are now working with about 40 volunteers to help people understand reforms and manage their cash, she said.

Changes include the so-called "bedroom tax", where council tenants get a cut in housing benefit if they have "spare" rooms. Many on disability living allowance are also undergoing medical assessments to determine how much



Banbury Citizens Advice chief executive Barbara Shaw

money they will get in the future.

Mrs Shaw said: "We have more volunteers now than we had then, but the demand is still increasing."

Council Labour group leader Sean Woodcock: "This is something that we are deeply concerned about."

"If people can't get advice that they need, then that is going to put enormous pressure on them and their families' circumstances."

The Government has said many on benefits "believe that the financial risks of moving into work are too great".

The Department for Work and Pensions last month said a poll found 78 per cent of 2,021 surveyed thought under-occupation of social housing needed to be tackled.

Employment minister Esther McVey said: "There were approaching 1m spare bedrooms being paid for by housing benefit, yet at the same time hundreds of thousands of families living in overcrowded social housing. This disparity was unfair and had to be addressed."

Banbury Conservative MP Sir Tony Baldry praised the advice charity's "outstanding" service and said he would be

"disappointed" if people were turned away.

He said: "I have had some cases raised with me in relation to benefit changes."

"Certainly in no way as many as when the last Government changed the benefit system to introduce tax credits, when I had a substantial number of constituents raising concerns about suddenly finding themselves confronted with alleged over-payments of tax credits and finding themselves being asked to repay large sums of money out of the blue."

"The present benefit changes are being introduced at a much steadier pace."

Bee colony in danger after new hive raid

RAIDERS have attempted to steal a second hive of bees from the grounds of an award-winning art gallery.

Last week's raid was thwarted, but the hive was dropped and damaged, leaving a devastated colony.

It was the second time thieves had struck at Compton Verney since the hives were installed in April.

The first break-in, early in November, resulted in a more dormant colony being lost. The two hives were bought with public donations and had been

maintained since their arrival by volunteer beekeeper Rod Oates.

The bees were doing well and had produced 40lb of honey over the summer, which was then sold in the Compton Verney shop.

Mr Oates said: "It has been disturbing for us and the bees. Over winter, honey bees cluster around their queen to maintain a temperature of 35-40°C. As so many of the bees were destroyed in this fumbled attempt to steal the hive and the colony, we are unsure whether

the remaining bees will survive."

Gary Webb, head of landscape and gardens at Compton Verney, said: "We are shocked that these incidents have occurred and we would ask that all keepers in the region to be extra vigilant to the threat of bee rustling, which seems to be on the increase."

Police are investigating and beekeepers groups have been alerted. Compton Verney is accepting donations towards a new colony. Call Aly Grimes on 01926 645 547.



Volunteer beekeeper Rod Oates assesses damage to a beehive in the latest raid

Music shop takes it away at awards

A MUSIC shop is celebrating after winning a national award.

One Man Band won the Take It Away Retailer of the Year at Music Industries Association awards on December 4.

It is the second time the shop, in White Lion Walk, Banbury, has received the prize.

Owner David Cooper, right, said: "We won it for encouragement and enthusiasm for getting people into playing instruments."

The store offers young people a chance to buy instruments on an easier repayment scheme and currently has 140 people learning to play instruments in its teaching studios.

Mr Cooper added: "We are being recognised for our services and we are going our own way to help people to be inspired by music."

"We do lots of things to get people interested."

The shop, which has been based in the town for 18 years, won after a public vote.



OX64059

InBRIEF

Approve solar farm plan call

■ **BANBURY:** Plans for a solar farm between Shutford and Epwell should be approved, a council planner has said.

Cherwell District Council's (CDC) Graham Wyatt recommends members of its planning committee approve the Longhill scheme on Thursday. Some 69 letters to CDC raised fears about its impact on the countryside and wildlife and about glare.

The committee meets at Bodicote House, White Post Road, Bodicote, from 4pm.

Drop in and have your say

ADDERBURY: Residents can discuss concerns with Adderbury parish councillors at a one-hour drop-in next month. Councillors will be at Church House, High Street from 11am on January 4.

■ Governors worried at sponsor's intentions

Schools out of academy plan

By Sophie Scott

THREE schools have pulled out of a plan to become sponsored academies after concerns were raised about intentions of the group behind it.

The Warriner School, in Bloxham, and Hornton Primary School and Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School had planned to be sponsored by the BAU Foundation through the Mentora Academies Trust.

They received permission from the Department for Education (DfE) in September to apply for sponsored academy status.

But this week governors at the schools announced the proposal was no longer going ahead.

Two of the seven directors on the board of BAU Foundation – former DfE permanent secretary Lord Richard and Dame Anna Hassan – are no longer registered with the firm at Companies House, with a national newspaper reporting they had stepped down. Headteacher

FACTFILE

- Mentora Academies Trust and BAU Foundation are both based in Bristol
- BAU Foundation was incorporated on August 7, 2013
- BAU Foundation had seven board members, including Lord Richard, Dame Hassan, Dr Kay and Enver Yucel

- Mentora Academies Trust was incorporated on August 14, 2013
- Mentora Academies Trust had eight board members, including Lord Richard, Dame Hassan and Dr Kay
- BAU Foundation would have run the schools under the Mentora Academies Trust banner in the UK

of Warriner School Dr Annabel Kay, pictured, who was on the board of BAU and also Mentora, has confirmed she has resigned from her position on both boards.

Governors said her role on the boards was to make sure the schools were represented from the earliest opportunity – she headed up the three schools' steering group.

Both the foundation and trust are based in Bristol and were registered as companies in August. They have links to Turkey and the Bahcesehir University in Istanbul.

Dr Kay said: "It was more of a growing concern of the intentions of some of the group. We were originally approached by the DfE in March and it sounded potentially exciting, especially as Lord Richard and Dame Hassan were involved."

"I had a growing sense about my concerns. I didn't

want to hand over my school, my special school, to someone who doesn't share its vision and respect it."

She said she also felt comments made by the chairman and founder of BAU about the Government giving it large amounts of money for the three schools were unhelpful.

Dr Kay met with governors on December 4 to raise concerns and a decision was made to withdraw from the plans.

Oxfordshire NUT secretary Gawn Little said: "This is a shocking story and will raise serious concerns with parents in Oxfordshire and beyond."

"We applaud the decision by the schools to withdraw in the interests of their students but believe serious questions have been raised about the integrity of the DfE and its hired consultants."

Dr Kay said the school was still exploring conversion to an academy through a Multi Academy Trust, but would not imminently be making any plans.



If you feel unwell then 'Choose well' for expert advice and help. Choose well means knowing about the different health services available and choosing the best one for your illness or injury.

A&E and 999 are for serious or critical conditions or life threatening emergencies only. There are many alternatives available.

Choosing well will help to ensure that the right NHS care is available when you need it.

Feeling unwell ? It does not have to be Accident & Emergency (A&E)



Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group is making sure you have all the information you need to choose the right health services, first time should you become ill.

By choosing well:

- You get the right care, first time
- You will often be treated more quickly than at A&E
- It helps free up the A & E to treat people with life threatening conditions.

There are lots of different ways people can access the right NHS service and make sure they get the right treatment, at the right time and a place that is convenient for them.

By choosing well you will get the right treatment and help busy NHS services care for the people who really need them.

1. Self-care — be prepared to visit a minor injury unit if there is one locally. You do not need an appointment to visit a minor injury unit. They are run by a team of highly qualified nurse practitioners with a lot of experience and expertise in the treatment of minor injuries. Minor injuries units can treat a wide variety of problems including cuts and grazes, sprains and strains, broken bones (fractures), bites and stings, minor eye infections and scratches or something stuck in your eye.

2. Anti-diarrhoeal medicine
● Rehydration mixture
● Plasters
● A thermometer

If you are unlucky enough to get a cough, cold or flu, buying over the counter medicine, staying at home and keeping warm will make you feel much better. Of course, if your symptoms worsen, you should seek a routine doctor's appointment or call NHS 111 for advice.

If you are pregnant, are aged over 65, or have a long term health condition (such as diabetes, asthma and a heart condition), you can get a free seasonal flu jab from your GP.

If you have a computer, the NHS Choices symptom checker can be very useful in helping you to manage any worrying symptoms. There is a wide range of up-to-date health information on the NHS Choices website. Please visit: <http://bit.ly/12kvV0>

2. Pharmacists
Pharmacists can offer a range of healthcare services; they provide additional services such as advice about minor illnesses (for example coughs, colds, diarrhoea and vomiting), advice on how to manage your medicines as well as ordering repeat prescriptions. Most pharmacists also offer private consulting rooms so you do not need to talk over the counter. People are urged to be aware of local pharmacy openings times and also to restock their winter medicine cabinet with remedies to treat common winter ailments.

3. NHS 111
If it is not a 999 emergency and you do not know who to call for medical help, perhaps because your GP surgery is closed, then you can call NHS 111 for advice. Calls from landlines and mobiles will be free.

4. Minor injuries units
Minor injuries units are for injuries, such as deep cuts, eye injuries, broken bones, severe sprains, minor head injury, minor burns and scalds. Many people go to A&E when they could be treated just as well and probably quicker at a minor injuries unit.

In A&E staff must give priority to serious and life-threatening conditions, so if you go there with a minor injury you may have to wait longer to be seen. It is better to go to a minor injuries unit if there is one locally.

You do not need an appointment to visit a minor injury unit. They are run by a team of highly qualified nurse practitioners with a lot of experience and expertise in the treatment of minor injuries. Minor injuries units can treat a wide variety of problems including cuts and grazes, sprains and strains, broken bones (fractures), bites and stings, minor eye infections and scratches or something stuck in your eye.

Your nearest minor injury unit is:

Abingdon
10.00am to 22.30hrs
Telephone: 01865 425161

Witney
10.00am to 22.30hrs
Telephone: 01608 648262

First Aid Units do not have X-Ray support
It is best to call prior to attending if you are concerned that an X-Ray may be required.

Bicester
This service is open weekdays, 6.00pm-11.00pm and 8.30am to 11.00pm for weekend
Tel: 01865 604122
(Please phone before attending.)

Chipping Norton
This service is open weekday evenings 5.00pm-9.00pm and 10.00am to 5.00pm for weekends and bank holidays. This is a drop-in service and you do not need to make an appointment.
Tel: 01608 648233

Wallingford
(Please phone before attending.)
This service is open Monday-Friday (excluding bank holidays) 8.30am to 6.30pm.
Tel: 01865 425200

5. Urgent dental services when your dentist is closed

For emergency advice or treatment please call: 0845 345 8995

- 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm, Monday to Thursday
- 6.30 pm to 10 pm on Fridays
- 9 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm at weekends
- 9 am to 5 pm and 6 pm to 9 pm on bank holiday weekends and bank holidays.

6. GP surgeries

GP surgeries provide a range of services by appointment, including medical advice, examinations and prescriptions and can give urgent advice between 0900 and 1830 Monday to Friday. Check with your GP practice directly for information.

7. GP out-of-hours

If you think that your GP is closed, then call NHS111.

The out-of-hours service provides urgent medical care from 6.30 pm to 8.00 am on weekdays and round the clock at weekends and bank holidays. Remember to call first before going to an urgent care centre as you will be given an appointment and will avoid an unnecessary wait.

Patients do not need to register for out-of-hours services.

8. A&E 999

A&E departments should only be used in a critical or life threatening situation. A&E departments provide immediate emergency care for people who show the symptoms of serious illness or who are badly injured.

Dialling 999 and stating that there is a medical emergency will result in an emergency response vehicle being sent to your location.

IN AN EMERGENCY PHONE 999 (e.g. serious injury, loss of consciousness, chest pain or suspected stroke)

Your checklist

- ✓ Have you got your repeat prescriptions to cover you during holiday periods?
- ✓ Do you have a well-stocked medicine cabinet? (Please keep medicines out of reach from children)
- ✓ Have you had your seasonal flu jab?
- ✓ Do you have a thermometer?
- ✓ Do you know the opening hours of your GP practice and pharmacy?

Where to get further information: NHS Choices www.nhs.uk

InBRIEF**Line up for pupil places**

OXON: Parents with children aged three or four are advised to apply for primary school places for them.

Oxfordshire County Council is advising parents to make their applications now ahead of the January 15 application closing date.

Parents with children born between September 1, 2009, and August 31, 2010 need to apply.

To apply online or download a form go to oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions, or forms are available at schools.

For more information about applying contact the county council admissions team on 01865 815175 or email admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dog centre to get spruce-up

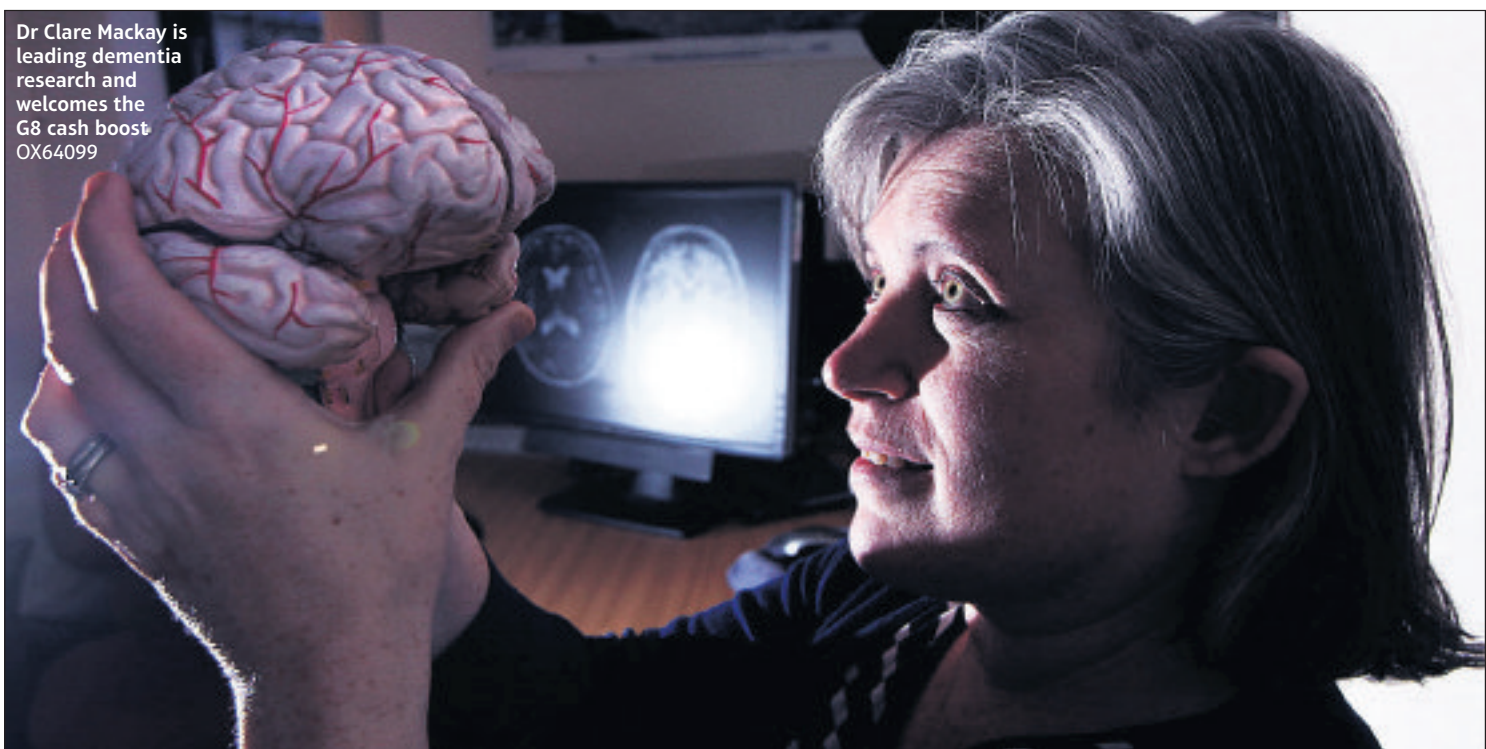
N OXON: Charity Dogs for the Disabled is to spruce up its training centre after getting a £500 grant from the Screwfix Foundation.

The Banbury-based charity trains assistance dogs to support people with disabilities and children with autism.

Got a story? Call Oliver Evans on 01865 425271 or email oliver.evans@oxfordshire.newsquest.co.uk

Hospital could get MRI scanner which spots Alzheimer's better

Dr Clare Mackay is leading dementia research and welcomes the G8 cash boost OX64099

**Dementia research cash 'set to double in county'**

By Oliver Evans

FUNDING for dementia research in Oxfordshire could at least double after the Government announced a major funding boost.

A doctor who co-ordinates the county's research efforts has taken part in discussions over the recent announcement on funding made at a meeting of the G8 leaders in London.

Dr Clare Mackay said she hoped a long-term funding pledge – £132m by 2025 – would help provide a dedicated MRI scanner for sufferers in the county.

If funding is doubled, at least 20 specialist jobs could also be created, Dr Mackay, co-ordinator at Oxford Dementia and Ageing Research, said.

MRI scanners are much better at detecting conditions such as Alzheimer's than the CT scanners currently in use.

Oxford is one of six major English research centres into dementia, along with three in London, one in Cambridge and

another in Newcastle.

Dr Mackay, who co-ordinates research between the county's NHS and Oxford University, said: "It is fantastic news.

"As a community, we have struggled for a number of years to raise the profile of dementia."

The county traditionally has higher than-average life expectancy because of its comparative affluence which leads to more issues with dementia.

About £5m-£10m a year goes to the NHS and Oxford University researchers.

This figure could now rocket. She said: "We hope our funding will at least double."

Dr Mackay attended a panel debate ahead of the announcement at the G8 summit.

About 8,000 people in Oxfordshire are thought to have

dementia – up from 6,600 in 2010.

Prime Minister and Witney MP David Cameron last year launched his Dementia Challenge to tackle the condition, now on the rise because of the UK's ageing population.

As a result, funding was already increasing before this latest announcement.

Dr Mackay said: "The amount has gone up considerably in the last couple of years.

"Since last year's call to action by the Prime Minister, there has been an amazing upturn in activity, which has culminated in the G8 summit."

This has seen collaboration rather than competition between the centres, she said.

The cash will hopefully provide an MRI scanner for Warneford Hospital, Oxford, giving clearer images than CT scans, she added.

While Alzheimer's is not

curable, the challenge is to delay the onset of the disease for as long as possible.

Dr Mackay said: "I am motivated by being a part of the solution to probably one of the biggest healthcare crises that we have."

Mr Cameron told the summit: "This is a disease that steals lives, wrecks families and breaks hearts.

"If we are to beat dementia, we must also work globally, with nations, business and scientists from all over the world working together as we did with cancer, and with HIV and Aids."

Alzheimer's Research UK's director of external affairs, Hilary Evans, said the cash was a "clear backing" for UK scientists.

Age UK Oxfordshire chief executive Paul Cann said: "It is incredibly exciting. It is a very bold leadership step, but it must be accompanied by more drug and practical service support."

Have your say on Home to School Transport

The new closing date for this consultation is Tuesday 14 January 2014

Read the proposals and respond online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/htspconsultation

Residents urged to check out hygiene ratings

NORTH Oxfordshire residents are being urged to check hygiene scores when they eat out.

Cherwell District Council has issued advice to people to help them avoid festive food bugs.

A total of 783 of 1,115 food businesses inspected by the council's environmental health team have now achieved the top five-star rating, with 1,078 of the businesses attaining a

rating of three or more stars.

Anyone can check hygiene ratings of restaurants and cafes by looking for green and black stickers on windows and doors.

They can also check online at food.gov.uk/ratings

Tony Iltott, lead member for public protection, said: "Christmas is a very busy time for restaurants, cafés and pubs and most of the food businesses

in Cherwell are rated three or above – which is good news for customers.

"This scheme gives you the chance to make sure the premises where you are eating or buying your food comes up to the mark.

"And for any businesses that would like advice on how to improve their rating, the council can help.

"Phone us on 01295 221803 or email public.protection@cherwell-dc.gov.uk."

■ Serious case review finds concerns were raised but no action taken

Chances were missed to save toddler's life



Oxfordshire County Council's children's services director Jim Leivers

SOCIAL workers, police and doctors missed a chance to potentially save the life of toddler Tayler Mason, who died from head injuries in 2010, a report has revealed.

Taylor died in Oxford's John Radcliffe hospital aged 22 months, after he was admitted with head injuries and abdominal bruising.

His father Craig Mason, then 33, of High Street, Middleton Cheney, was jailed for 15 months in May for neglect.

Now a serious case review has identified points in the run-up to his death when concerns were raised, but there was no intervention.

The report, published by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board, highlights poor information sharing between police, doctors and social workers and said incidents in Taylor's mother's past – such as self-harm and abuse from a former partner – were not fully considered.

Now the agencies mentioned in the report have accepted recommendations in the review, including that they

By Freddie Whittaker

should consider the wellbeing of children when dealing with adults with mental health issues and have a monitoring framework in place.

Oxfordshire County Council's children's services director Jim Leivers said: "It was a case which went wrong for a number of agencies and what we failed to do was to follow up an anonymous telephone call. That was something we should have done and we didn't act on it properly.

"We have done a lot since then and I think we have now got a much safer referral system than we had before."

The report reveals that concerns were raised about the child's wellbeing five months before his death, in an anonymous referral about delays in his development and possible bruising from falling over.

Other failings highlighted include the lack of a review strategy meeting, which would have allowed the facts to be shared between agencies, and the fact a report by a paediatrician who

examined the child after bruising was discovered in September 2009 was delayed by two months.

Oxford University Hospitals Trust medical director Professor Edward Baker said: "We are very sorry about the tragic outcome of this case. Staff from our hospitals contributed fully to the serious case review.

"As part of that process, the trust reviewed its policies and practice relating to safeguarding children across the trust as a whole. The recommendations from the serious case review relating to the trust are about ensuring consistency of practice.

"Independently of this, the paediatrician concerned was given intensive support and careful scrutiny of all relevant clinical practice."

A police spokesman said: "Thames Valley Police were fully engaged with the review of this case.

"As part of our role we carried out our internal review, as a result of which we ensured we took steps to remind staff about existing procedures. These actions ensured we completed the recommendations made by this review."

InBRIEF

Pleas to help coppice trees

■ VOLUNTEERS will cut back trees in Spiceball Park next month. Oxford Conservation Volunteers will coppice trees to help growth on Sunday, January 12. Organiser Chris Skepper said: "We will be managing the woodland in a traditional way to promote bio-diversity by creating a range of habitats. Local volunteers are welcome to join us on the day and we can include young people ages five to 16 if they are accompanied by an adult who signs our parental consent form."

Care accolade

■ A BRIDAL shop sales manager is celebrating after winning a Banbury Women in Business award.

Lucy Leaper, who works at Katherine Allen Bridal, in Marlborough Road, won the group's customer care award.

It was presented at a ceremony at Banbury's Rye Hill Golf Club.

Ms Leaper said: "It was a surprise, but an absolute pleasure to be presented with the customer care award.

"I had been secretly nominated and had no idea I was up for the award until I was told I'd been shortlisted."

Great Ideas For Christmas for Family & Friends

<p>Mum</p>	<p>Best Friends</p>	<p>Grandad</p>	<p>Baby</p>	<p>Jewellery Holders</p>
<p>Pets</p>	<p>Work Mates</p>	<p>Girlfriends</p>	<p>Grandma</p> <p>Cushions</p>	<p>Gifts for Men</p>

FIFTH CORNER



Church Lane, Banbury
TEL: 01295 266531

InBRIEF

Pub knifeman avoids prison

A MAN who pulled out a craft knife and threatened pub door staff has avoided prison. Arthur Robinson, of Padbury Drive, Banbury, admitted possessing a bladed weapon in a public place outside the Fleur-De-Lis pub in Broad Street, Banbury, on August 3 this year.

Meryl Hughes, prosecuting at Oxford Crown Court, said the 49-year-old was very drunk and got into an argument with door staff, which ended in him pulling out the four-inch blade and being tasered by police.

He received a 12-month jail sentence, suspended for two years, with 12 months of supervision. He was also told to pay a £100 victims' surcharge.

Green group

A BRANCH of a network of county green groups is to be established in Banbury. The Banbury Community Action Group will bring people together for activities like swap shops, environment-themed film screenings and renewable energy schemes. There are 56 such groups in Oxfordshire. For information email simon.kenton@resourcefutures.co.uk or call 07793 647190.

Headteachers claim campaign has knock-on effect

Reading initiative's exam results boost



Melinda Tilley

A READING campaign for young pupils has had a knock-on effect on exam results for older primary school students, headteachers claim.

The campaign, which was set up last year, aims to improve literacy levels among Key Stage 1 students.

But revised figures have revealed that 78 per cent of pupils are achieving the benchmark of reaching at least level four in reading, writing and maths.

And headteachers and an education official say the reading campaign has helped older pupils – even though it was not aimed directly at them.

Smaller schools led the way in getting top results, with some village schools achieving a 100 per cent rate of children getting level four and above.

One headteacher said: "We have still got work to do around writing but we are doing very

By Sophie Scott

well in reading. We are seeing already that through the reading campaign, writing is improving. We are finding reading results across the whole school go up."

The campaign sees seven-year-olds working with books in small groups alongside a trained teaching assistant. They also read one-to-one with volunteers.

But another headteacher believes it will take a few more years for the benefit of the reading campaign to be fully realised.

Her school had 72 per cent of its year six students achieve level four and above.

She said: "We had a drop in writing, but we felt progress was really good."

"The reading campaign is aimed at year two but I think the impact it has had on reading throughout the school has really shown. "Vocabulary is improving. But

it will be in the coming years that the success of the reading campaign will really become known, as those children in the lower years make their way up the school."

In Oxfordshire, 78 per cent of pupils are achieving the benchmark of reaching at least level four in reading, writing and maths – three per cent higher than the national average.

And the county has improved on last year, where 77 per cent of year six pupils were reaching the Government benchmark.

These revised county figures are one per cent higher than earlier believed.

Melinda Tilley, the county council's education boss, said: "I really do think this is a result of the reading campaign. Although it wasn't Key Stage 2 – it was Key Stage 1 – I think it has had a knock-on effect."

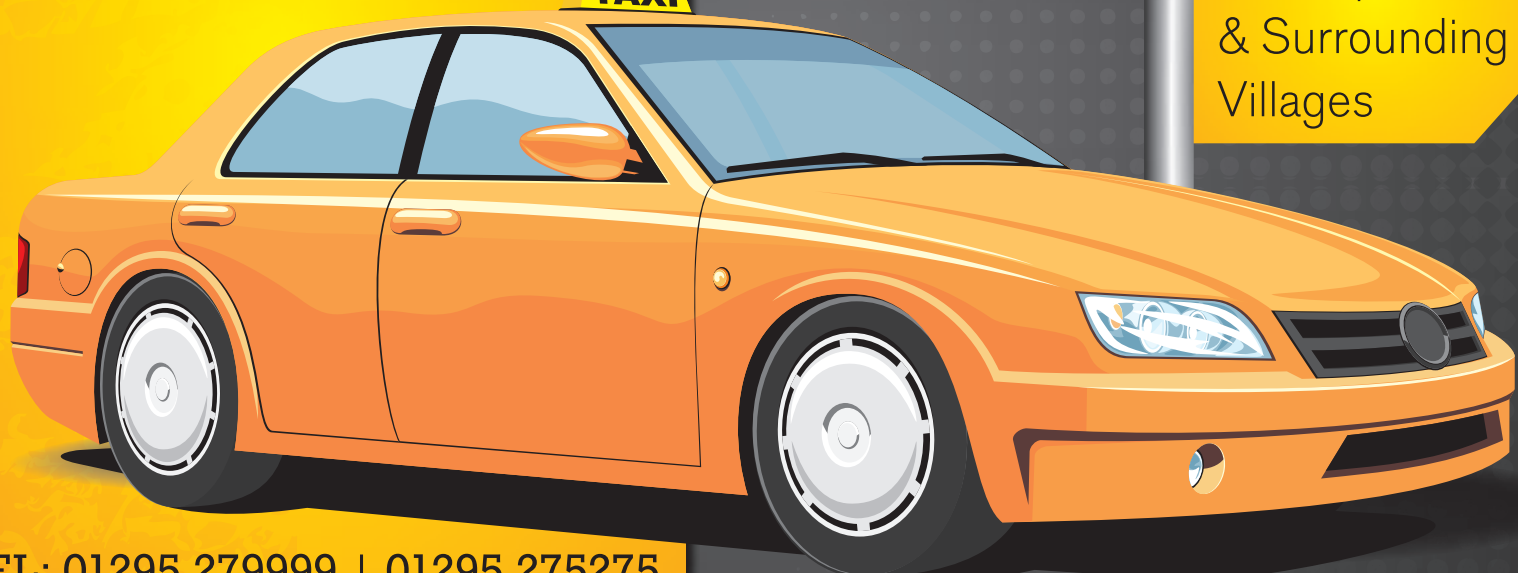
"It's given schools a culture of reading and I am sure that has helped. I hope that it continues to help."

Key Stage 2 Results 2013

Source: Department for Education		Oxon	National
2012	% PUPILS achieving level 4 or above in reading and maths test and writing TA: 2012	77%	75%
2013	% PUPILS achieving level 4 or above in reading and maths test and writing TA: 2013	78%	75%
	% PUPILS making at least two levels of progress in maths	89%	88%
	% PUPILS making at least two levels of progress in reading	90%	88%
	% PUPILS making at least two levels of progress in writing	93%	91%
	% BOYS making at least two levels of progress in maths	89%	88%
	% GIRLS making at least two levels of progress in maths	89%	88%

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■ Unpopular increase would set Banbury member's salary at £74k

MP repeats vow to give any pay rise to charity

By Freddie Whittaker

BANBURY MP Sir Tony Baldry has renewed his pledge to donate a proposed 11 per cent pay rise, which could see his basic salary rise to £74,000, to charity.

The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has announced it will still recommend that MPs receive the rise next year, despite the fact many politicians have condemned the proposal.

Prime Minister David Cameron, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and Labour leader Ed Miliband have all come out against the proposals, with many MPs saying they will donate the rise to charity if it is brought in next year.

When the idea of a pay rise was first announced by IPSA in July, Sir Tony said he would donate it to charity, and now the extent of the rise has been revealed he has renewed his pledge.

He said: "I really do think that Members of Parliament are between a rock and a hard place here, in that the general public quite understandably no longer wanted Members of Parliament determining their own pay, and so everyone agreed that it would be sensible to set up a statutory independent body which would determine MPs' pay, pensions and other related matters over which Members of Parliament would no longer have any say or control.

"Under the legislation, Members of Parliament now have no control over IPSA.

"So that we get to a situation where, as the Prime Minister [last] in Prime Minister's Questions [last] Wednesday, given that we are seeking to reduce the cost of politics, the only way to deal with this would be to abolish IPSA and start again, and indeed, at the same time, perhaps sensibly, again on the basis of reducing the cost of politics, to reduce the size of the House of Commons from its existing 650 seats to a smaller number.

"And as I made very clear in July when this proposal was first mooted,



Sir Tony Baldry has renewed his pledge to donate a potential 11 per cent pay rise to charity

I would give away any pay increase to charity."

IPSA chairman Sir Ian Kennedy said: "For the first time, MPs' pay and pensions will be set independently, and away from political deals cooked up in Westminster.

"We are sweeping away the out-of-date and overly generous benefits, and introducing a one-off uplift in pay. Crucially, thereafter MPs' pay will be linked to everyone else's.

"We have designed these reforms so they do not cost the taxpayer a penny more."

Although Sir Tony had not commented when the Cake went to press last week, he had previously made it clear that he would donate any proposed pay rise to charity.



PM David Cameron opposes any increase for MPs

Council urged to liaise on £64m cuts

FINANCE bosses have been urged to work with Oxfordshire's voluntary organisations over plans to save around £64m.

Oxfordshire County Council's budget plans for the next four years were subjected to their first public discussion at a meeting this week of the council's performance scrutiny committee

Representatives of community groups packed the meeting room at County Hall to challenge cuts to grant funding for their organisations and services which are vital to the people

they represent.

Age UK Oxfordshire chief executive Paul Cann said: "I would like to start by recognising what a difficult hand Whitehall has given Oxfordshire and I would like to applaud the efforts that have been made to protect frontline services and keep people active in the community.

"I would like this to become a joint process, with the voluntary and community sector working with the council on the detail."

He questioned plans to save £200,000 by cutting the council's

laundry, meals and shopping service for the elderly.

The council should work to help address a problem of £24m in pension credit which went unclaimed in Oxfordshire, he said, adding that the money could help people remain independent.

Oxfordshire Pensioners Action Group spokesman Michael Hugh-Jones, 85, arrived at the meeting armed with a counter-proposal – a voluntary increase in council tax he said was "affordable for well-off Oxfordshire households".

InBRIEF

500 fish enter watercourses

■ HUNDREDS of fish have been released to restock some Oxfordshire waterways. About 500 roach and tench were poured into Adderbury Lakes as part of an Environment Agency project which has seen 15,000 fish released across the South East.

Charity choice

■ THE Katherine Allen Bridal boutique, in Marlborough Road, Banbury, has picked the Banbury Young Homelessness Project as its charity for 2014. The bridal shop said it was planning a string of fundraising events, including a fashion show in February. BYHP gives support for homeless youngsters aged between 16 and 25.

330 new jobs

■ THE number of new jobs created across Cherwell between July and September has smashed a target for the entire year. Cherwell District Council says 330 jobs were created over the summer, mainly due to the opening of Bicester's £70m town centre redevelopment Pioneer Square. The target was 200.

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InBRIEF

Admits racist attack

■ A MAN has admitted a racist attack in which he hit his victim over the head with a concrete block. Daniel Walsh, of Marlborough Road, Banbury, pleaded guilty to one count of committing a racially aggravated assault causing actual bodily harm on April 5 this year. The 22-year-old attacked Ayjaz Hanif, a security guard at Banbury Foyer homeless shelter, while making references to his Pakistani background. He will appear again at Oxford Crown Court to be sentenced on December 19 and was remanded in custody.



Crackdown on scrap metal cheats

POLICE and councils have pledged to take action against unlicensed scrap metal dealers breaking a new law.

Under new legislation introduced this month any person collecting metal as a business must have a licence issued by a local district council authority.

Anyone caught without a licence could be fined up to £5,000.

But Oxfordshire Waste Partnership yesterday warned businesses and residents they had a responsibility to check for dealer licences before allowing them to take metal.

Detective Inspector Ian Wood of Thames Valley Police, pictured left, said: "Thames Valley Police are committed to reducing the harm caused to our communities as a result of metal theft. The risk of becoming a victim has been significantly reduced by robust measures put in place by the Force. We have used a strong partnership approach to reduce the risk of further offences and bring offenders to justice."

"The new legislation will be a useful tool to tackle people who want to steal or deal in stolen metal."

David Dodds, chairman of Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, added: "We are pleased to be working in partnership with Thames Valley Police on this important issue and would urge any Oxfordshire resident to check they are aware of the legislation before giving or selling any scrap metal."

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■ She's turning a hobby into a full-time job

Rania's rising to baking occasion

By Andrew Smith

TURNING a hobby into a full-time job is a challenge but one that Rania Freij eventually found hard to resist.

For the last six years Banbury-based Ms Freij has been baking cakes for family and friends, but as demand grew she found herself working longer and longer hours.

"I started getting busier and found myself staying up until 4am, so last month I decided to take the plunge and start doing the cakes business full-time."

Ms Freij had previously worked in retail at a Debenhams store for ten years before taking a position as an administration manager with an art retailer in Warwick, both of which were full-time. Starting her own business has been a challenge, but she has no regrets.

"Baking is something I love. I enjoy watching people's faces when I show them my cakes."

The key to launching Magic Mixer Cakes and Bakes has been marketing, and Ms Freij, 34, has had some success using Facebook to go beyond her circle of family and friends using referrals.

She is also targeting the weddings market by contacting florists and photographers, as well as parties, having built up a collection of cups and saucers, and she is also looking to break into the corporate market to take advantage of the demand for quality cup cakes at events.

Ms Freij says she can turn her hand to a wide range of designs from children's cartoon characters to elegant rose-shaped creations.

She is being supported by her partner, Andrew Parrett, as well as her extended family and friends who often pitch in at busy times.

"I am passionate about what I do and I am slowly building the business, which is very satisfying."

hosting children's parties and running classes in cake decoration.

Working from home she covers a relatively wide area from Northamptonshire to Oxford. She has also started hosting vintage tea



Rania Freij with one of her cakes

Look after chimneys, warn firefighters

FIREFIGHTERS are warning residents to look after their chimneys following nearly 150 blazes this year.

There have been 148 chimney fires in the county in 2013 so far - many of which were preventable, according to Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service.

Home and community safety manager Stuart Garner urged people to use a fire safety guard and sweep their chimneys at least once a year.

He said: "Colder weather can increase the risk of fire within the home, with many people enjoying a log fire. A roaring fire may be a welcoming sight, but it is essential that it is contained using a British Standard guard, and that chimneys are swept at least once a year."

The plea comes as part of the council's Ready for Winter safety campaign.

Fewer people visit council's sports centres

THE number of people visiting council sports centres in the Cherwell District Council area is down by more than 45,000, according to figures.

A performance report to the council's executive says the number of people using sports facilities at Bicester Leisure Centre, Kidlington and Gosford sports centre, and Banbury's Spiceball is 572,725 compared to a target of 618,309, a

difference of 45,584. Currently Bicester's play and teach pool has been out of action since last December, and that has accounted for 20,000 fewer customers, the council said.

It has attributed the remaining reduction of 25,584 to the "downturn in the economic climate".

The council's leisure centres are run by Parkwood Leisure. Spokesman Jemma Callow

said: "These figures are monitored on a daily basis and Parkwood continue to work in partnership with Cherwell District Council to market and promote the facilities.

"We are committed to ongoing investment in our centres and this continues with the installation of a new sports hall at Bicester and the impending redecoration and equipment replacement."

Health boss expresses cautious optimism

Bed-blocking problem easing

THE health boss who promised to tackle bed-blocking "head-on" more than two years ago has said there are signs the situation may be improving.

Dr Stephen Richards, chief executive of the GP-led Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, pledged to get to grips with the crisis in September 2011.

Since then, Oxfordshire has consistently been the worst place in England for bed-blocking – but figures for October show an improvement. In October, 139 people were delayed, compared to 166 in September.

Bed-blocking, or delayed transfer of care, happens when a patient is well enough to be discharged but cannot because beds are not available, or care arrangements have not been made.

By Tom Jennings

Oxfordshire is now the second worst place in England, behind Birmingham (157).

Dr Richards said: "There are some signs that delayed transfer of care performance may be starting to improve. For the past six weeks, the number of people delayed, measured on a weekly basis, has been about ten per cent lower than the normal trend for the county.

"While this is certainly not yet a pattern, it does represent a significant improvement at a

time when hospital admissions, and, therefore, overall discharges, have actually been rising.

"It is too soon to tell whether this is going to be a permanent reduction or to ascertain what might have been the reason for it.

"It is, however, very good news for patients who are able to return to their own homes more quickly than

might have been the case before."

Oxfordshire received £10.2m from the Government in September to tackle winter pressures, including bed-blocking, and Oxfordshire County Council earmarked another £1.2m last month.

The county's October bed-blocking figures are worse than the same month a year ago, when 108 people were delayed, but are better than October 2011, when 183 were blocked, and October 2010, when 176 were delayed.

But, at an Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust board meeting last month, trust non-executive director Geoffrey Salt was less positive about the situation. He said: "There does not seem to be any prospect that it will not be the worst again this time next year."

At the same meeting, director of clinical services Paul Brennan explained that Oxfordshire was in the "unusual" position of having acute hospitals and community hospitals run by different organisations – Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and Oxford Health, respectively.

He said in areas where one organisation runs both types of hospital, those waiting in acute hospitals to go to community hospitals do not count as delayed patients, whereas in Oxfordshire they do.

Mr Brennan added: "It would be fair to say we keep a proper record, to an extent that I do not think is so everywhere across the NHS."



Dr Stephen Richards

Oxfordshire BED blocking

2010	Number	Position
Aug	112	8th
Sep	169	2nd
Oct	176	1st
Nov	144	1st
Dec	141	2nd

2011	Number	Position
Jan	93	9th
Feb	137	2nd
Mar	137	3rd
Apr	132	3rd
May	127	2nd
Jun	103	5th
Jul	146	2nd
Aug	152	1st
Sep	163	1st
Oct	183	1st
Nov	172	1st
Dec	170	1st

2012	Number	Position
Jan	176	1st
Feb	194	1st
Mar	182	1st
Apr	180	1st
May	136	1st
Jun	148	1st
Jul	115	2nd
Aug	117	2nd
Sep	144	1st
Oct	108	4th
Nov	88	6th
Dec	104	4th

2013	Number	Position
Jan	181	1st
Feb	179	1st
Mar	182	1st
Apr	149	1st
May	149	3rd
Jun	128	3rd
Jul	148	1st
Aug	144	3rd
Sep	166	1st
Oct	139	2nd

Data from NHS England

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A 'captivating' band set for city's Cellar gig

By Tim Hughes

In Zanadu – one of the most exciting new bands to come out of the Heart of England – play The Cellar, Oxford, on Saturday. Based in Brailes, this creative and innovative five-piece outfit is set to be “the next best thing” in live shows and recorded performance with ambitions to become a long-lasting and influential UK musical presence.

Gathering influences from all kinds of music from all corners of the world, the songs written, arranged and performed by In Zanadu are catchy, thought-provoking and memorable.

Lyrical, clever and well-composed, these musical nuggets are brilliantly performed and sung by the amazing vocal pairing of Ulysses Wells and Amelia Kate Sampson.

Backed by the third elemental member of the band, keyboard and trumpet player, Romilly Wells, the

numbers are great for listening to and form a brilliant In Zanadu repertoire for dancing, festivals and gigs of all kinds.

The band has already enjoyed the contrasts provided by thrilling audiences of over 15,000 on a European tour and enjoying comfortable weekly appearances in London's more intimate music clubs and bars.

Busy in the studio during a series of numbers using the technical and musical skills of some of Britain's top producers including John Robinson, Gavin Backhouse and Nick Southwood.

The structure and foundation of the tracks have been crafted by songwriter Ulysses Wells but each is given the personal touch of the other band members to give the

music In Zanadu's distinctive sound.

The music is anchored by riff-heavy, bluesy lead guitar, given a unique added touch by Romilly Wells' melodic trumpet sounds and backed by the band's talented bass and drums session players.

The stunning pairing of the vocals of Ulysses and Amelia Kate Sampson are added to this recipe to provide a spectacular, original and hugely attractive musical creation that has won In Zanadu hundreds of fans all over the UK and Europe since forming in 2010.

In Zanadu was described by Dom Letts of Radio 6 as The Libertines-meets-Amy Winehouse-meets-White Stripes.

Reviews have commended the band for its “great stage presence”, being “vivacious” and “captivating”.

● See In Zanadu, at The Cellar, Oxford, on Saturday, December 21, at 7pm. Tickets: £5.50. Box office: 01865 244761.



Teaming up:
In Zanadu
vocalists
Ulysses Wells
and Amelia
Kate
Sampson



In Zanadu, labelled 'vivacious', 'captivating' and with 'great stage presence'



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STRIKE FAST Bubbly, blonde, blue-eyed Devises woman, 43, 5'6", enjoys listening to music, country walks and more, searching for a nice and genuine guy, to share carousels and the future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155233 or send a text to 80360

BLONDIE AND BUBBLY Youthful, bewitched Swindon female, 43, 5'3", blonde hair, enjoys nights out and the cinema, would like to meet an affectionate, open, honest man, for lasting love and a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149682 or send a text to 80360

GENUINE PARTNER WANTED! Sincere, loyal, Christian Banbury female, 45, searching for a loving, kind-hearted and honest man, for a long-term relationship and hopefully a romantic relationship in the future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154128 or send a text to 80360

WALK IN THE PARK Sensitive, friendly and selfless Abingdon-On-Thames female, 46, searching for a spirited, warm male, for friendship and a fresh start in life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159088 or send a text to 80360

ENJOY AND SHARE LIFE Attractive, divorced Melksham lady, 46, 5'5", red hair, green eyes, grown up children, loves the outdoors, travel, animals and family life, seeking a genuine guy, 40-50, for true romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138266 or send a text to 80360

OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION Laid-back Swindon female, 47, still looking for my Mr Right, to share and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126129

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine and caring woman, 47, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138288 or send a text to 80360

QUALITY TIMES Sunny, loving, divorced, Lady Swindon girl, 47, 5'3", average-build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116

START AFRESH Friendly, kind-hearted, curvaceous Faringdon woman, 50, 5'7", enjoys entertaining for a life-loving, honest male, for friendship and a fresh start in life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147608 or send a text to 80360

SHARING THE GOOD TIMES Fun-loving, affectionate and interesting Swindon female, 50, searching for a fair, upbeat man, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101558

LOVE FOR LIFE Tactile, loving and fun Melksham lady, 51, simply searching for a gregarious, confident male, for fun, friendship and perhaps more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153073

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 52, 5'7", grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804

TO THE FUTURE Flexible, life-loving, optimistic, divorced Abingdon lady, 54, 5'7", non-smoker, wants to meet a feisty, adventurous gentleman, 44-54 for friendship, hopefully leading to committed relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138484

JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY Easygoing, honest and caring Bicester female, 55, would like to meet a tall, genuine, kind and loving male, for a long term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 or send a text to 80360

SHALL WE DANCE? Blonde, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 56, friendly nature, well-travelled and loyal, love of life, searching for a active, educated man, who appreciates, food, wine and life in general. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895

A DEEP CONNECTION Big, bubbly Swindon lady, 56, black, GSOH, caring, enjoys music, reading, going out & cinema, looking to meet a like-minded white guy, 40-50, kind, loyal and fun, for a true relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115425

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LET'S FIND EACH OTHER Down-to-earth, loving, black Wolverhampton female, 47, 5'4", seeking a nice man, with GSOH, to enjoy each others interests, travel together and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 148802 or send a text to 80360

MEANINGFUL TIMES Active, outgoing Trowbridge female, 58, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117215 or send a text to 80360

NEED THAT SOMEONE SPECIAL Intelligent, attractive, well dressed, 60, widow, enjoys keeping active and swimming, looking for a kind, intelligent, active male, for friendship, possibly more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151752 or send a text to 80360

LOOKING TO SETTLE DOWN Youthful, outgoing, honest Trowbridge woman, 61, 5'6", slim build, brunette, glasses, N/S, enjoys darts, car boot sales, bingo, gardening and more, seeking that special man, to settle down with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159284 or send a text to 80360

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 61, 5'2", curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 61, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451

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LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 61, med build, 5'6", GSOH, N/S, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/S and caring for dates & more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161 or send a text to 80360

NEVER A DULL MOMENT Kind-hearted, perceptive and dependable Swindon woman, 64, likes the countryside, theatre and country music, would like a date with a sensitive, caring male, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158615 or send a text to 80360

LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER Sociable, witty Oxford lady, 66, would like to meet that special man, for companionship, a lasting friendship and see where it leads to from there. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158099

DO IT TOGETHER Down-to-earth, retired Bicester lady, 67, enjoys car boot sales, bingo, eating out and generally always up for a laugh, would like to meet a kind, caring gent, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158321 or send a text to 80360

LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER Straight forward, kind and sincere Swindon woman, 67, N/S, likes music and current affairs, would like to meet a man, age 67-77, for fun, friendship and hopefully more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155949 or send a text to 80360

WALK OF LIFE Self-assured, strong-minded and motivated Bampton girl, 71, just looking to meet a friendly, trustworthy male, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156046 or send a text to 80360

COUNTRY WALKS Country-loving lady, early 70s, wishing to meet sincere gentleman, for companionship, to share the good things in life; dining out, places of interest. Golfer, loves animals, GSOH, Marlborough area. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149564 or send a text to 80360

COMPLETE THE PICTURE Attractive, honest Swindon lady, 75, 5'5", loves cinema, theatre, national trust, walks, would like to meet a tall, non-smoking gent, under 70 with a GSOH. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140415

HONEST COMPANY SOUGHT Kind, caring Oxford female, 78, fishes country drive, pub lunches, fishing, seeking a tall man, with a good sense of humour, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143388

BLOSSOM WITH TLC Attractive Abingdon widow, 80, would like to meet a non-smoking, active gent, to enjoy days out and cosy times in with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 139676



KIND, CARING & HONEST Sincere, honest, well-travelled Oxford male, 25, would like to meet that special woman, to settle down with and share a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157991 or send a text to 80360

TELL ME ABOUT YOU Caring, considerate male, 28, enjoys sport, music, quiet nights in, drinks out, country walks, would like to meet a similar lady for friendship, leading to a lasting romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153050 or send a text to 80360

SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 33, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837

CARING & CONSIDERATE Kind-hearted, active Oxford man, 37, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female, for companionship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360

TIME TO SHARE Lively Oxford male, 40, 5'10", med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 17999 or send a text to 80360

EASY TO LOVE Easy-going gent, 41, GSOH, enjoys travelling, music, looking for my life long partner. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152843 or send a text to 80360

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START OF SOMETHING GOOD Caring, humorous and friendly Wantage male, 44, enjoys movies, cooking and sports, would like to meet an upbeat, loving woman, age 28-38, for a lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156615 or send a text to 80360

STILL SEARCHING FOR YOU Easygoing, kind Oxford male, 46, medium build, likes eating out, walks, nights out and the cinema, would like to meet a slim lady, age 40-50, for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157537 or send a text to 80360

FUN AND LAUGHTER Friendly, caring male, 47, 5'9", N/S, own home and car, enjoys days out to the seaside, seeking young-at-heart, honest lady, to spend quality time with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146399 or send a text to 80360

YOUNG AT HEART? Genuine, honest, self-employed Oxford male, 47, 5'9", own home and car, likes the seaside and country walks, would like to meet a youthful, slim lady, age 35-45, to share a happy future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157106 or send a text to 80360

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 47, 6'3", looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080

LOTS TO GIVE Easygoing, reliable, Lyons Bicester male, 48, 5'7", cooking nights in, sees nice young lady for friendship leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 52, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

HOPING TO FIND LOVE Caring, honest Oxford male, 52, non smoker, likes DIY, gardening, walking, keeping fit, seeks caring, honest female, for lasting love and a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154616 or send a text to 80360

EYE TO EYE Nice gent, 53, enjoys history, coastal walks, architecture, walking, cosy nights in, cooking, DIY, would like to meet a lady for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152776 or send a text to 80360

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 53, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW? Mature, N/S, likes music, walking and keeping fit, GSOH, would like to meet a nice, bright lady, for fun times and see where that leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158142 or send a text to 80360

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 56, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836

MAKE A DATE Young-at-heart, blue-eyed Wallingford man, 57, GSOH, enjoys dancing, would like to meet a friendly lady, to get to know each other and see where that leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 or send a text to 80360

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 59, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

KEEPING WITH THE TIMES Happy go lucky, blue-eyed Banbury male, 60, 5'6", slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, country side and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156014 or send a text to 80360

FUN AND LAUGHTER Sensitive, decent Oxford man, 60, would like to find a warm-hearted, genuine, caring woman, to share laughter and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145981 or send a text to 80360

PASSION FLOWER Youthful, friendly Oxford chap, 60, 5'9", dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, active days out and socialising, searching for a loving, happy and loyal woman, to build a lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

SOUND LIKE YOUR MATCH? Tall, handsome, fit Abingdon male, 63, slim build, enjoys DIY, gardening, travel and walking, seeking a slim, petite, adventurous female, for good company and to enjoy a happy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159314 or send a text to 80360

LET'S SEE IF WE MATCH Young at heart Oxford male, 66, enjoys slow walks, reading and cosy nights in with great conversation, would like to meet an interesting, vibrant woman, for fun, friendship and possibly love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153137 or send a text to 80360

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Solvent, retired business gent, North Oxfordshire, 67, own home and car etc, with a love of cinema, travel and new adventure, seeks a nice, loyal, feminine lady, for companionship then who knows? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140

SAIL AWAY Sociable, bubbly and happy Bicester female, 42, seeking a chatty, optimistic female, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147448 or send a text to 80360

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 48, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817

FRIENDSHIPS WITH FEMALES Straight, kind Bicester woman, 68, retired and missing the social aspect of work so looking to find some female friends or an established social group, for days out and friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 or send a text to 80360



IT'S YOUR MOVE Outgoing, energetic and warm-hearted Oxford male, 41, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, live music and loads more, simply searching for an outgoing, older man, for fun times, laughter and lots more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 103263 or send a text to 80360

SHOW YOUR COLOURS Honest, old fashioned, non-scene Oxford male, 57, fit, clean living, not into pubs, clubs or crowds, seeking a mature lady, for friendship, days out, holiday and fun times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 865303

MAKE A CONNECTION Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 65, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 857624

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW... Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 66, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times in, socialising, seeks a friendly, active chap, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800 or send a text to 80360

FROM THIS MOMENT Friendly, easygoing, fit Witney chap, 68, would like to meet an affectionate male, for company, companionship and hopefully more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143904

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 70, 5'9", medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360

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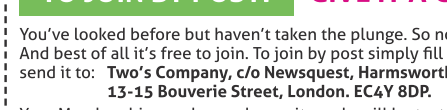
DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 60, 5'6", slim build, self employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149030 or send a text to 80360

SEE FOR YOURSELF Youthful, faithful, liberal and sympathetic Middlesbrough man, 73, looking for a sweet, sensitive woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502

SOUL TO SOUL Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 78, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937

CONNECT WITH ME Sincere Oxford male, 60, slim-build, 5'8", likes cinema, swimming, country walks with my dogs, seeking an honest, caring lady, to spend quality times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128560 or send a text to 80360

I CAN MAKE YOU FEEL SPECIAL Solvent, easygoing, professional Banbury male, 63, enjoys the finer things in life, would like to meet a cuddly, loving and laid back woman, for affectionate times and a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156356 or send a text to 80360



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Dazzling visuals in story of triumph against adversity

WALKING WITH DINOSAURS – THE 3D MOVIE (U, 87 mins)
Family/Action/Adventure/Romance/Comedy. Karl Urban, Charlie Rowe, Angourie Rice and the voices of Justin Long, Skyler Stone, John Leguizamo, Tiya Sircar. Directors: Barry Cook, Neil Nightingale.

In October 1999, six years after Steven Spielberg restored Tyrannosaurus Rex to the top of the food chain in *Jurassic Park*, the BBC unveiled its ground-breaking series, *Walking With Dinosaurs*.

Narrated by Kenneth Branagh, the programme employed state-of-the-art animatronics and computer-generated effects to step back in time to the Mesozoic Era – the so-called Age Of Reptiles.

The six-part journey into a lost world populated by majestic beasts, like the Stegosaurus, Ankylosaurus and the gargantuan Brachiosaurus, captivated viewers and won numerous awards, including two BAFTAs and three Emmys.

According to Guinness World Records, the programme also claimed the dubious honour of the Most Expensive Television Documentary Series Per Minute, costing a reported £6.1m for 162 minutes of screen time.

Shot on location in Alaska, *Walking With Dinosaurs – The 3D Movie* is the next evolution, employing dazzling visuals to explore a familiar story of triumph against adversity in the Late Cretaceous period.

Screenwriter John Collee roasts a hoary narrative chestnut – the journey of a runt of the litter – for a simplistic script.

It emphasises the educational aspects by repeatedly freeze-framing the action to provide us with the genus, English translation and feeding classification of each dinosaur.

Humour is pitched at younger

A scene from *Walking With Dinosaurs – The 3D Movie*
Picture: PA Photo/Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation



audiences – the opening sequence is a feast of dino-poop – with occasional concessions to parents, like when the film's hero stares dreamily at a picturesque landscape and gushes, "This is one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen!".

"It's a future oilfield, so don't get too attached," replies his feathered sidekick tartly.

A clumsy yet well-intentioned framing device introduces Bulldust, the leader of a herd of herbivorous Pachyrhinosaurus.

Buldust must impose his authority on younger rivals while keeping an eye on his newly hatched brood including Scowler (voiced by Skyler Stone) and his weakling brother Patchi (Justin Long).

Wise-cracking best friend Alex (John Leguizamo) keeps a close eye

on Patchi and together, they face the merciless Gorgosaurus, high-flying Pterosaurs and the chicken-like Hesperonychus, which Patchi refers to as "skinny-necked pecky things".

Walking With Dinosaurs – The 3D Movie is visually arresting edutainment that makes fleeting use of the eye-popping format. Thus, a Pterosaur almost pokes our eye out with its beak and moths flutter inches from our face.

Vocal performances are solid, with Leguizamo stealing the best lines as the little bird who professes: "If you want to know where the food is, follow the fat guys".

Scenes that might be a tad scary for the very young are preceded by a verbal warning from Alex, giving parents time to create a cuddle cage from the necessary bloodshed.

CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY: Kings Arms Hotel, Market Square, Bicester: Nikki Loy, the singer and songwriter performs a Christmas special. Free. 9pm. 01869 249040.

St Nicholas's Church, Chapel Road, Chadlington: Craig Ogden and Friends Christmas Concert. In aid of Friends of Chadlington School. £15, under-21s £10. 7.30pm. 01608 676685.

SATURDAY: Church of SS Mary and John, 271 Cowley Road, Cowley: Classical guitar recital with Dave Seck in the lovely setting. A medley of instrumental arrangements of songs from *Les Misérables* as well as a selection of festive numbers. Mince pies and soft drinks in the interval. £5 at the

door, under-12s free. 7.30pm.
Exeter College Chapel, Turf Sreet, Oxford: Christmas by Candlelight: Charivari Agréable perform Baroque music, modern anthems and carols. 7.30pm. £17, £16 (seniors), £10 (students, disabled). 01865 305305.
SUNDAY: Blue Boar, Goddards Lane, Chipping Norton: Jamie Felton. Popular young vocal guitarist returns for a Christmas special. Free admission. 5pm. 01608 643525.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Dec 20, King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys – a great swing band.

Expect dazzling musicianship and a riveting stage performance. 7.30pm. £16 (adv £14).
Dec 21 and 28 Leatherat. Christmas just wouldn't be complete without the annual Leatherat bash! But this will be even more magical as Leatherat launch a new album! 8pm. £12 (adv £10).
Box office: 01295 279002.
The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Until Jan 12 *Jack and the Giant*. A boy and his cow, a giant and his castle in the clouds, beanstalks, bravery and beautiful princesses – all feature in our unique twist on this classic story. £5-25. Varies according to date.
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Frustrations with wind and Weymouth

Adeyinka Talabi twice had good efforts blocked for Banbury United



BANBURY United were held to a goalless draw at home in a wind-affected Calor League Premier Division clash on Saturday.

The first real chance came Weymouth's way in the 16th minute.

A stray Banbury free-kick deep inside their own half by debutant goalkeeper Dean Snedker was played forward to Stewart Yetton, but the Weymouth striker could only lob the ball on to the roof of the net with the keeper beaten.

Three minutes later, a Banbury corner taken by Scott Bridges saw shots from inside the penalty area by Adeyinka Talabi and Leon Simpson well blocked by defenders.

In the 33rd minute, Jason Matthews was

Banbury United	0
Weymouth	0

equal to a well-hit 30-yard strike from Kyal McNulty.

Chances were few and far between, and it was the 58th minute before there was another decent opening.

A Weymouth corner from the right was met by the head of Michael Walker.

The ball looked destined for the back of the net, but Snedker deflected the shot on to the bar, with Simpson then hacking clear.

Weymouth were looking the better side, but Banbury held firm and on 75 minutes they almost broke the deadlock when a corner was

knocked out to Talabi, whose fierce shot from a narrow angle was well held by the keeper.

Three minutes later, Banbury went close again. A quick break from a Weymouth attack saw McNulty pick out Kynan Isaac midway inside the Weymouth half.

He exchanged passes with Albi Skendi before his cross from the left was met at the near post by the head of Talabi.

The ball appeared to be going into the top left-hand corner, but Matthews brought off a superb acrobatic save to palm the ball over.

Banbury Utd: Snedker, Cray, Martin, Isaac, Simpson, Mbamarah, Morgan (Lawless 86), Bridges, Skendi, McNulty, Talabi. Subs not used: Sharpe, Pinto, Dias.

Attendance: 325.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19 **LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22
You may think your close ones are being difficult, but your stars show that the majority of signs are under more stress this Christmas, so try to go out of your way to be accommodating to those you love. It's sure to pay back tenfold when the mists have cleared. An unexpected offer from a new face has not been given on a whim but was planned way in advance. Ring now to hear how this may affect you.

0906 585 4360 0906 585 4366

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20 **SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21
This is sure to be one Christmas you will not forget in a hurry. You will finally be able to sit down and survey the kingdom you have created with a smile as you see that your hard work was not for nothing. A new face brought into your circle this week makes you feel ill at ease. Give them a chance. You have more in common than you think. Ring now to better understand your family.

0906 585 4361 0906 585 4367

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20 **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21
Try to stock up on an extra gift as someone is going to be entering your Christmas plans without much of an announcement, but with every reason for you to want to include them in your plans. You'll be pleased you planned ahead when you see how much they have to give to your life and plans. Mercury brings a new admirer but take it slow. Time is on your side, so use it. Ring now so I can explain.

0906 585 4362 0906 585 4368

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22 **CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19
You edge closer towards Christmas with an excited feeling because you know something is going to happen, something big, but you know you're not in control of it. All you have to be sure of is Cancer is that you're being honest to your heart. Remember you weren't at the beginning of the year! People will be talking about you and for all the right reasons. Ring now for more on this dramatic time.

0906 585 4363 0906 585 4369

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22 **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18
An argument or disagreement which got out of hand has still left you with a bad taste in your mouth and it's going to be up to you to right this wrong before Christmas Eve if you're to enjoy this Christmas as you'd originally intended. Love and lust become confused and it's up to you to make some 'me' time to assess your true feelings. Ring now so I can help you end this year on a high.

0906 585 4364 0906 585 4370

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22 **PISCES** Feb 19-Mar 20
You seem to have veered from the original path you made in life and this is largely due to the very hedonistic influences you have attracted in recent weeks. Just remember to find you again and to stick to the things which you know make Christmas so special for you. You are your own person; you've just got to find you again. Ring now so I can bring out your finer qualities for New Year.

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TOMY Rainbow Aquadraw, 2 water pens, 3 stampers, drawing brush, water pot, age 18m+, box and instructions, good condition £8. 01295 253640

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8 PUBLIC NOTICES**INSOLVENCY ACT 1986****IN BANKRUPTCY
BANBURY COUNTY COURT**

NO. 275 OF 2007 RE: GILLIAN MARSHALL

D.O.B: 19 August 1958

I intend to pay within four months from 15th January 2014 (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 6.51 p/£.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by 15th January 2014 (being last day of proving) otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at 11th Floor, Southern House, Wellesley Grove, Croydon CR0 1XN telephone 020 8681 5166 to supply a form.

NO. 17 OF 2008 RE: TRACY ANNE TAYLOR

Of 16 Addison Road, Banbury, Oxon OX16 9DH

D.O.B: 31 October 1964

I intend to pay within four months from 9th January 2014 (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 2 p/£.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by 9th January 2014 (being last day of proving) otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at LTADT, PO Box 490, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 1YR telephone 01473 383535 to supply a form.

Mr S Fearn, Official Receiver and trustee

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We are looking for a team player who is a logical thinker with a positive and flexible approach, with the ability to work on their own initiative whilst under pressure.

The Company runs a 24 hour operation at the present time and these vacancies are for a: 36hr Night Shift, however, there may be a need to vary the shift pattern to meet changing production needs from time to time.

Ideally you will be:

- A competent Electrician with a formal qualification and experience.
- Experienced in working with ac/dc control systems & panels with the skill of fault finding on drive systems.
- Having a basic know-how in Ethernet-Communication with process-controllers, field-bus-systems (e.g. Interbus), modern instruments and control systems.
- Experienced working in an industrial environment as an Electrical/ Electronic/ Mechanical maintenance engineer on industrial machinery and troubleshooting

Additional desirable attributes would be:

- IT literate including hardware, software and networking with knowledge of PLC S7, Allen Bradley, Omron and Muller Martini; and troubleshooting.
- Having at least 2 years practical experience including: fault finding, knowledge of DC/AC motors, converters, encoders, fibre optic system, panel and motor wiring.
- Able to demonstrate an excellent electrical knowledge with a basic knowledge in lighting systems plus mechanical knowledge and experience and able to carry out preventive maintenance

Practical experience of a modern plant installation with a BMS system would also be an asset.

There will be occasions where some mechanical engineering and the need to 'get your hands dirty' will be required.

A reasonable level of fitness is required to fulfil the duties of this position.

If you are interested in becoming a key player in this facility please send your CV and a covering note to:

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10 MOTORS

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2007 07 FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2. Metallic grey. Local car. Lovely condition. PAS. Electric windows. Aircon. Remote central locking. Radio/CD. Excellent service history. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....**£3,495**

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2000 X FORD KA 1.3 met dark blue new MOT arriving weekend

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Peugeot

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VAUXHALL CORSA
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2 Sun Mar	Afternoon Tea	Cheltenham	Northern Belle	£185
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7 Sat Jun	Chester Zoo	Cardiff, Newport	Northern Belle	£340
7 Sat Jun	Historic Chester & Cathedral	Cardiff, Newport	Northern Belle	£340
8 Sun Jun	Ironbridge	Swansea, Cardiff, Newport, Bristol	Northern Belle	£340
8 Sun Jun	RAF Cosford	Swansea, Cardiff, Newport, Bristol	Northern Belle	£340
25 Fri Jul	Beatrix Potter Guided Tour	Cardiff, Birmingham	Northern Belle	£360
25 Fri Jul	Windermere & The Lakes	Cardiff, Birmingham	Northern Belle	£340
25 Fri Jul	Yorkshire Dales	Cardiff, Birmingham	Northern Belle	£340
26 Sat Jul	Murder Mystery Lunch	Bristol, Bath Spa, Swindon	Northern Belle	£235
17 Fri Oct	Chester Zoo	Swansea, Cardiff, Newport	Northern Belle	£340
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18 Sat Oct	London Shard Experience	Bristol, Bath Spa, Swindon	Northern Belle	£360
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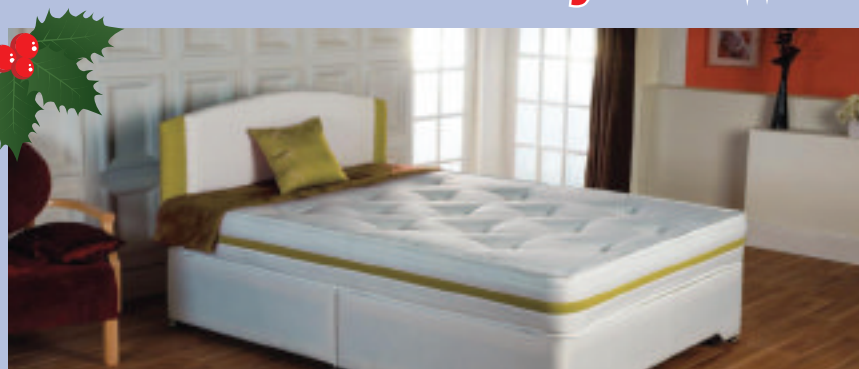
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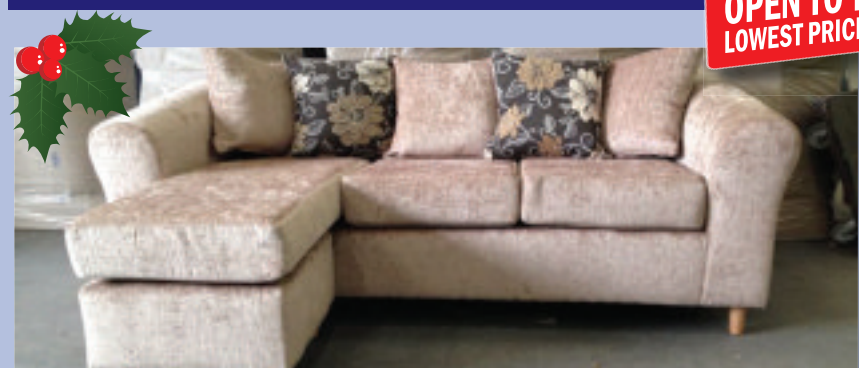


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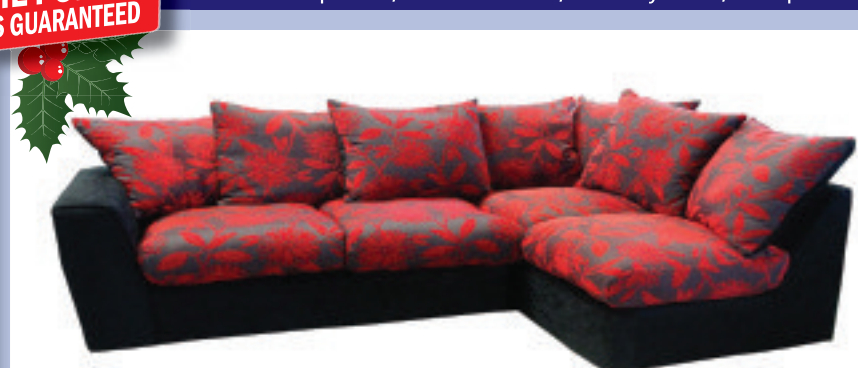
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